

Message Text

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SUBJ: ARCHAEOLOGICAL DEVELOPMENT ASSISTANCE

1. A MEETING WAS HELD WITH DR. ABDULLAH AL-MASRI, DIRECTOR OF THE DEPARTMENT OF ANTIQUITIES, MAY 24, TO DETERMINE THE STAGE OF DEVELOPMENT OF THE PRESENT PROGRAM IN S.A. AND HOW THE JOINT COMMISSION MIGHT PROVIDE FURTHER ASSISTANCE. HE REVIEWED ACCOMPLISHMENTS TO DATE AND DISCUSSED HIS PLANS FOR THE FUTURE.

2. ARCHAEOLOGICAL DEVELOPMENT IN SAUDI ARABIA IS CURRENTLY WELL UNDERWAY. INCLUDED ARE TWO MAJOR PROGRAM-MATIC THRUSTS (1) A DETAILED ARCHAEOLOGICAL SRVEY OF ALL OF THE KINGDOM AND (2) THE ESTABLISHMENT OF A CENTRAL MUSEUM FACILITY IN RIYADH WITH A NETWORK OF AFFILIATED MUSEUMS THROUGHOUT THE KINGDOM. PERSENTLY TEAMS HAVE BEEN EMPLOYED FROM VARIOUS UNIVERSITIES TO INVENTORY AND DETERMINE THE ARCHAEOLOGICAL POTENTIAL OF VARIOUS GEOGRAPHICAL AREAS IN THE KINGDOM. CONTRACTS FOR THIS WORK HAVE INVOLVED INSTITUTES AND ARCHAEOLOGICAL UNITS FROM THE UNIVERSITIES OF CHICAGO, HARVARD, PENNSYLVANIA AND LONDON. ARCHITECTS ARE CURRENTLY WORKING ON THE
UNCLASSIFIED

UNCLASSIFIED

PAGE 02 JIDDA 03839 291002Z

DESIGN FOR THE COMPREHENSIVE CENTRAL MUSEUM AND LABORA-TORY FACILITY IN RIYADH, WHICH, ACCORDING TO DR. MASRI, WILL COST AN ESTIMATED ONE HUNDRED MILLION DOLLARS.

3. DR. MASRI INDICATED THAT HE HAD ENCOUNTERED SOME PROBLEMS IN DEALING WITH VARIOUS INDIVIDUALS AND GROUPS THAT HAVE BEEN HIRED THROUGH UNIVERSITIES.

OF PARTICULAR CONCERN TO HIM IS THE OVERHEAD CHARGES TRADITIONALLY INCLUDED IN U.S. UNIVERSITY BUDGETS FOR SUCH SERVICES. HE HAS DECIDED TO MAKE ASSESSMENTS OF THE ACCOMPLISHMENTS AS WELL AS THE RELATIONSHIPS WITH THE UNIVERSITY GROUPS ALREADY EMPLOYED BEFORE PROCEEDING FURTHER. AL-MASRI IS INTERESTED IN USE OF UNIVERSITY OF MICHIGAN IN ARCHAEOLOGICAL WORK AND TRAINING, BUT HAS ASKED USREP TO ADVISE MICHIGAN THAT HE FIRST WISHES TO COMPLETE THIS ASSESSMENT BEFORE PROCEEDING FURTHER IN NEGOTIATIONS WITH MICHIGAN. WE WILL DO SO. HE HAS NO INTEREST IN USING UNIVERSITIES FOR LABORATORY DEVELOPMENT.

4. PRESENTLY THERE ARE TWELVE SAUDI STUDENTS AT UNIVERSITY OF LONDON AND EIGHT AT UNIVERSITY OF CHICAGO. HE WOULD LIKE TO ENROLL TWO TRAINEES AT SMITHSONIAN INSTITUTE, IF POSSIBLE, AND DISCUSSED THIS WITH A.DR. TROUSDALE OF THE SMITHSONIAN EARLIER THIS YEAR. HE ALSO MAY BE INTERESTED IN PLACING OTHER SAUDI PERSONNEL AT U.S. UNIVERSITIES THROUGH JECOR AUSPICES.

5. DR. MASRI IS PARTICULARLY CONCERNED WITH DEVELOPING A FIRST-RATE RESEARCH CAPABILITY IN THE CENTRAL LABORATORY TO BE CONSTRUCTED IN RIYADH. THE WORK BEING DONE AT BROOK HAVEN LABORATORIES IN UPSTATE NEW YORK APPEALS TO HIM MOST, ALTHOUGH HE INDICATED THAT THERE MAY BE OTHER LABORATORIES PROVIDING HIGH QUALITY RESEARCH SERVICES. DR. MASRI WOULD LIKE TO DEVELOP A WORKING RELATIONSHIP WITH BROOK HAVEN LABORATORIES (WHICH HE CHARACTERIZED AS LINKED TO THE FEDERAL UNCLASSIFIED

UNCLASSIFIED

PAGE 03 JIDDA 03839 291002Z

GOVERNMENT) OR SOME SIMILAR INSTITUTION, TO OBTAIN ASSISTANCE IN THE DEVELOPMENT OF HIS RESEARCH LABORATORY. AT THE OUTSET, IT IS ENVISIONED THAT A SPECIALIST WOULD BE RECRUITED TO SPEND FOUR TO SIX WEEKS IN S.A. WORKING WITH DR. MASRI AND HIS STAFF AS WELL AS THE ARCHITECTS WHO ARE DESIGNING THE CENTRAL MUSEUM FACILITY. SUBSEQUENTLY, LONGER-TERM ASSISTANCE MAY BE NEEDED IN STAFFING AND EQUIPPING THE RESEARCH FACILITY AS WELL AS TRAINING.

6. IN VIEW OF THE ABOVE, PLEASE DETERMINE THE AVAILABILITY AND COST OF AN ARCHAEOLOGICAL RESEARCH SPECIALIST FROM BROOK HAVEN, OR SOME SIMILAR, PREFERABLY USG INSTITUTION, TO PROVIDE TDY SERVICES FOR FOUR TO SIX WEEKS COMMENCING IN EARLY OCTOBER. ALSO PLEASE CHECK WITH DR. TROUSDALE AND EXPLORE THE POSSIBILITIES FOR ENROLLING TWO SAUDI TRAINEES AT THE SMITHSONIAN INSTITUTE FOR THEIR ONE-YEAR TRAINING PROGRAM.

7. SUGGESTED ACRONYM FOR PROJECT IS ARTIFACT.

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